



DO NOT LOSE HEART

A 14 Week Study on Paul's Second Letter to the Church in Corinth

2 CORINTHIANS

[A 14 Week Study on Paul's Second Letter to the Church in Corinth]

WEEK ONE

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

Day One | 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

Questions: How do you typically introduce yourself? What is your primary identity?
Why is it important to know that this letter is written to Christians?
What does the grace and peace of God look like in your life this week?

Day Two | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Questions: How have you experienced God's mercy & comfort in your life?
According to this passage, why does God comfort us in our affliction?
Can you describe a time that you passed God's comfort on to someone else?

Day Three | 2 Corinthians 1:5-7

Questions: How have you shared in the sufferings of Christ?
How would you describe the relationship between suffering & comfort?
What hope can we hold onto in the midst of suffering?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 1:8-10

Questions: What was the connection between their suffering & their relying on God?
Describe a time when God delivered you in the past.
Does the past faithfulness of God help to provide present comfort for you?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 1:11

Questions: Why does Paul say the church must help them by prayer?
Do you tend to share your burdens with others & ask for prayer? Why?
Why do you think it is important to have others praying for you?

Group Question: What do you believe is the most important thing that God wants you to do or to focus on in this season of your life?

Day Six | Rest & Prayer

Day Seven | Sermon Notes

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

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WEEK TWO

2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:4

Day One | 2 Corinthians 1:12-14

Questions: Why is it desirable to behave with simplicity, sincerity & by God's grace?
How do you typically handle a misunderstanding?
How important is church unity to you? How do you actively pursue it?

Day Two | 2 Corinthians 1:15-20

Questions: Describe a time when you were unable to keep a promise that you made.
Do you think that keeping your word is important?
What does it mean that all of God's promises find their "yes" in Jesus?

Day Three | 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Questions: Do you think of your identity as being earned or being received from God?
How does the Holy Spirit act as a seal and a guarantee?
Describe a way in which the Holy Spirit has led or guided you.

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 1:23-24

Questions: How did Paul spare them by not coming to visit them as he wanted to?

How do you balance speaking truth in love to people?

Has God ever used difficult things to bring you joy or increase your faith?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 2:1-4

Questions: Do you feel that God has ever corrected or punished you?

Were you able to see that correction as an action of love?

In what way is God trying to correct or challenge you in this season?

Group Question: What area of your character is God challenging you to address at this time? What would progress in that area look like?

Day Six | Rest & Prayer

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2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:4

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WEEK THREE

2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-17

Day One | 2 Corinthians 2:5-8

Questions: Have you seen the way one person's sin can affect an entire community?
Is there someone that you need to forgive and seek reconciliation with?
What would be the first step to make that happen?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 2:9-11

Questions: Why is forgiveness a test of obedience?
Why was Paul willing to forgive those that the church forgave?
Who does Paul identify as the real enemy? Do you share that perspective?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 2:12-13

Questions: What does this passage show about Paul's relationship with Titus?
How are strong relationships built in a church community?
What do you value more: efficiency & effectiveness or relationships?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

Questions: What does it look like for you to be the fragrance of Christ to others?

Is there a smell that triggers a specific memory for you?

Do you live with the perspective that you are in a triumphal procession?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 2:17

Questions: Are you surprised that there were many word “peddler’s” in Paul’s day?

Why is sincerity such an important part of our witness?

What has God commissioned you to do?

Group Question: What relationship outside of church are you cultivating so that you can share Gospel truth with that person? How can we pray for that?

Day Six | Rest & Prayer

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WEEK FOUR

2 CORINTHIANS 3

Day One | 2 Corinthians 3:1-3

Questions: Do you think of your own legacy as things, accomplishments, or people?
What is written on the tablet of your heart?
How can you create space for the Spirit to write on your heart this week?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Questions: How is God developing humility in you in this season of your life?
What does it mean for you to be a minister of the new covenant?
Have you seen how the “letter” kills in your own experience?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 3:7-11

Questions: Read Exodus 34:29-35. Why were the people afraid?
How is the Law of Moses a covenant of death & condemnation?
Why does the glory of the new covenant surpass that of the old covenant?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 3:12-13

Questions: What is your ultimate source of hope?

In what ways could you be more bold in proclaiming your faith?

What keeps people from seeing the glory of God revealed in Jesus?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 3:14-18

Questions: Who is it that still reads the Old Testament with a veiled heart?

How does the Gospel bring you freedom?

Does beholding God's glory make you become more like Him?

Group Question: What is the most important step of obedience that God wants you to take right now? How can our group pray for and support you with that?

Day Six | Rest & Prayer

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WEEK FIVE

2 CORINTHIANS 4

Day One | 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

Questions: What is the biggest threat currently that could cause you to lose heart?
Where are you tempted to take short cuts or manipulate a situation?
What causes the Gospel to be veiled to unbelievers that you know?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Questions: Is it bad for a church or Pastor to have a well known name or “brand”?
Do you think of your primary identity as being a servant to others?
Describe a moment when God shone the light of the Gospel into your heart

Day One | 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Questions: What does it mean to have this treasure in jars of clay?
Do you find vs8-10 to be encouraging or discouraging?
How is God glorified when we are “given over to death”?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 4:13-15

Questions: Do your words reflect what you truly believe?

What is the danger of a “fake it til you make it” approach to faith?

In your life today, what is bringing the most glory to God?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Questions: When are you most tempted to lose heart? What sustains you?

Which things of this world have the greatest hold on your heart?

What are you most looking forward to in eternity with Jesus?

Group Question: Who is at the top of your prayer list for salvation or for repentance and turning back to Jesus?

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WEEK SIX

2 CORINTHIANS 5

Day One | 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Questions: Do you think of the afterlife as more solid and real than Earthly life? Why?
What is most difficult or challenging about your physical life today?
How does the Spirit act as a guarantee of your future with God?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Questions: How do you walk by faith and not by sight?
Are you “always of good courage”? If not, how could you become like that?
What do you think it will be like to stand before the judgement seat?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 5:11-13

Questions: What does the fear of the Lord look like in your life?
Do you ever feel like people mistake your humility for weakness?
How do non-Christians around you think about you & perceive you?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Questions: Do you find it hard to consider your “self” to be dead?

Where are you most tempted to live in a selfish way?

Do you think dying to yourself is necessary to follow Jesus?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Questions: In what ways have you become a new creation in Christ? What is different?

What does it look like to be a minister of reconciliation?

How does living as an ambassador for Christ change the way that you act?

Group Question: Have you been self-conscious, self-pitying or self-justifying this week? How might you apply Gospel truth to free you from that mindset?

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WEEK SEVEN

2 CORINTHIANS 6

Day One | 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Questions: Do you feel like you are working together with Christ? How?
Who do you know that has heard the Gospel but not responded to it?
How often do you pray for that person?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 6:3-10

Questions: What obstacles stood in the way of you coming to faith in Jesus?
What qualities in your life point others towards Jesus?
Which of the qualities that Paul lists stands out the most to you? Why?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

Questions: In what area or areas is God calling you to widen your heart?
What keeps you from speaking freely to those around you?
How do you think their affections were actually restricting them?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Questions: What do you think it means to be unequally yoked with unbelievers?

How do you know where to draw the line?

Do you think this means we should have no relationship with unbelievers?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

Questions: Do you think of yourself as the Lord's temple? Does that change anything?

How do you think you are being called to separate from the world?

What does it mean to you for the Lord to be your Father?

Group Question: Have you given the Bible time to speak to you this week? What did that look like or what could it look like in this next week?

Day Six | Rest & Prayer

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REST WEEK

Take a week to reflect on what you have learned in the first half of this study.

How are you living or thinking differently as a result of what you have been learning?

Who do you know that needs these truths in their life? Can you invite them to join your study?

Where is God opening a door for you to share Jesus with a friend, neighbor, family member or co-worker? Are you praying for that person?

How is the Gospel impacting your life this week?

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WEEK EIGHT

2 CORINTHIANS 7

Day One | 2 Corinthians 7:1

Questions: How do the promises of God increase your desire for obedience?
What defilements of the body have you wrestled with?
What defilements of the spirit have you wrestled with?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 7:2-4

Questions: Can you share a time when you made room in your heart? How did it go?
Have you ever experienced God's peace in the midst of affliction?
How joyful are you in this season of your life? Why?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 7:5-9

Questions: Are your greatest struggles external or internal?
Has God ever used someone to bring you comfort?
Have you ever been grieved into repenting? Were you grateful?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 7:10-12

Questions: How are Godly grief and worldly grief different?

Has a crisis ever led you to a greater conviction in your beliefs?

What character qualities have you seen in moments of personal trial?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 7:13-16

Questions: Comfort and joy are contagious...are they spreading from you to others?

Whose obedience is bringing encouragement to you this week?

How much value do you place on the fellowship of the church?

Group Question: Do you feel defeated in any part of your life? How might Jesus bring you freedom from that feeling?

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WEEK NINE

2 CORINTHIANS 8

Day One | 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Questions: What reasons do you have to be joyful in this moment?
How could poverty overflow in generosity?
Why is giving oneself to God a key component of a generous heart?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 8:6-7

Questions: What areas of your Christian life are strongest?
In what areas of your Christian life do you have the most room for growth?
Do you see generous giving as an act of grace, just like faith and love?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Questions: How does the generosity of Jesus relate to your desire to be generous?
How did Jesus make us rich by His poverty?
How has God blessed you so that you can supply someone else's need?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 8:16-19

Questions: Why is willing obedience to God so important?

Who are you partnering with to do ministry work?

Have you ever been inspired by someone's faith & eagerness to serve God?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 8:20-24

Questions: Why is accountability important in financial matters?

What is happening in the Church around the globe that encourages you?

Do you feel God calling you towards a specific task or ministry?

Group Question: In week 5 we shared the name of the person at the top of our prayer list for salvation & repentance. How are they doing? Any new developments?

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WEEK TEN

2 CORINTHIANS 9

Day One | 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Questions: How do you balance and view planned vs spontaneous generosity?

Is keeping your word an important part of your character?

Is there a commitment that you've made which you need to fulfill?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Questions: Are you sowing sparingly or bountifully?

Is giving something that you feel compelled to do out of obedience?

Would you describe yourself as a cheerful giver? Why or why not?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 9:8-9

Questions: How much of your prosperity is a result of God's grace?

How does sufficiency in all things relate to abounding in good works?

Do you trust that God will provide for your every need?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

Questions: What does a harvest of righteousness look like in tangible ways?

How has God enriched you? What is the result?

How is your generosity leading to an overflow of thanksgiving to God?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 9:13-15

Questions: What changes has your confession of Jesus brought to others in your life?

Have you seen generosity lead to closer and more unified relationships?

Do you think of Jesus as being the example and model of generosity?

Group Question: Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I going to do about it?

Day Six | Rest & Prayer

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2 CORINTHIANS 9

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WEEK ELEVEN

2 CORINTHIANS 10

Day One | 2 Corinthians 10:1-2

Questions: Why does Paul prefer to be meek and humble in person?
Describe a time when you accomplished something through force?
What was the result? What impact did it have on relationships?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Questions: What does it look like to wage war in the flesh?
How are you utilizing divine power to destroy strongholds?
What thoughts do you need to take captive in this season of life?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 10:7-12

Questions: Are you better at written communication or speaking?
How much emphasis do you put on practicing what you preach?
Why is it wrong for them to compare themselves with one another?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 10:13-16

Questions: Who introduced you to faith in Jesus Christ?

Has that initial investment grown in significance over time?

What is challenging about submitting to those with spiritual authority?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

Questions: What do you tend to boast about? In what area is pride a temptation?

How does the Lord commend someone? What does it look like?

Are you looking up to someone who regularly commends themselves?

Group Question: Is Jesus real to you today? What habit, practice or activity is the most helpful in connecting you to Jesus in a real way? How could you do that more?

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2 CORINTHIANS 10

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WEEK TWELVE

2 CORINTHIANS 11

Day One | 2 Corinthians 11:1-6

Questions: What competes with Jesus for your devotion & affection?
What are some examples of false Gospel messages?
How should we react to those teaching a false Gospel?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 11:7-15

Questions: Do you value something more when it costs you something?
Why do you think Paul did not ask the Corinthian church for support?
Are you someone who asks for help when you need it?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 11:16-20

Questions: How do you feel when you see someone you love being mistreated?
Why do you think the Corinthians listened to these other teachers?
Have you ever been deceived by someone who projects confidence?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 11:21-29

Questions: Did Paul's suffering made him more or less accepted by the church?

Why do you think God allowed Paul to suffer so much in serving Him?

How have you had to suffer or struggle to follow Jesus?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 11:30-33

Questions: What does it mean to boast in weakness?

Do you think there was a connection between Paul's pride & his suffering?

How has Christ been shown through your personal weakness?

Group Question: What is the greatest temptation that you are faced with in this season of your life? How are you doing in resisting it?

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2 CORINTHIANS 11

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2 CORINTHIANS

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WEEK THIRTEEN

2 CORINTHIANS 12

Day One | 2 Corinthians 12:1-6

Questions: What do you think when someone says that they had a vision from God?
Have you ever had a supernatural vision or experience?
Do you think that having a vision makes someone more wise or mature?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Questions: How did the thorn keep Paul from becoming conceited?
Why didn't God remove the thorn? What was the reason He revealed?
Could something good come out of a thorn in your life?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 12:11-13

Questions: Have you ever felt unappreciated or disrespected by someone you helped?
Why do you think the church was more impressed by these super apostles?
What measure do you use to judge someone's quality or worth?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 12:14-18

Questions: As Christians, how does our generosity reflect the Gospel for others?
Do you think your reputation & character is part of your witness?
Was there a time that your behavior opened a door to share Jesus?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 12:19-21

Questions: Have you ever had to discipline or correct someone out of love for them?
What is Paul's goal in all of this?
Are you engaged in anything that you need to turn from in repentance?

Group Question: What is the most significant thing that you have learned in this study? Who do you know that needs to hear that truth? Will you share it with them?

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WEEK FOURTEEN

2 CORINTHIANS 13

Day One | 2 Corinthians 13:1

Questions: Have you ever been falsely accused?

Why is having 2-3 witnesses important?

Can you describe the Biblical pattern for dealing with disagreements?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 13:2-4

Questions: Can you describe a time when you had to show tough love to someone?

What is the danger in always avoiding conflict?

How do you live in both the weakness and the power of Jesus?

Day One | 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Questions: What does it look like to examine yourself to see if you are in the faith?

What makes you confident that you will spend eternity with Jesus?

What things in your life are inconsistent with faith in Jesus?

Day Four | 2 Corinthians 13:7-10

Questions: How do you help someone who is living in disobedience to Jesus?
Are there people for whom you feel a spiritual responsibility?
How are you using your position to build up rather than tear down?

Day Five | 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Questions: What is the connection between unity and joy?
What reason do you have to rejoice today?
What can you do today to promote peace and unity?

Group Question: Who can you invite into the next discipleship study? Has your group grown to a size where it would benefit from multiplying into 2 new groups?

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2 CORINTHIANS 13

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